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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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WASHINGTON DC 20005

In re Application of :
Stephens, et al. :
Application No. 09/655,929 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: September 6, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. 8224.002.NPUS00 :

This is a decision on the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, filed January 7, 2010.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

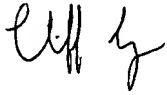
The above-identified application was held abandoned for failure to timely file a response to the non-final Office action mailed July 7, 2009. This Office action set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. The Office mailed a Notice of Abandonment on December 24, 2009, stating that no reply had been received.

It is obvious from reviewing the file that the Notice of Abandonment was mailed prematurely. As the July 7, 2009 Office action set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months, the last day a reply could be filed, with the maximum available three month extension, would be January 7, 2010. Applicants have filed a reply on January 7, 2010, accompanied by a three month extension of time.

In view thereof, **the holding of abandonment is withdrawn.**

The application is being forwarded to Group Art Unit 3692 for consideration of the RCE, filed on January 7, 2010 (made timely with the three month extension of time).

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cliff Congo".

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions